

**United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base
Minutes of Business Meeting
12 June 2025**

Opening Ceremonies:

- The June 2025 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Dave Harvey with a quorum of three officers and a total of 48 members. Vice Commander Tom Lawson was absent from the meeting tonight. The meeting started at 1901 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Base Commander Dave Harvey and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols.
- Submarines lost during the month of June:
 - **USS HERRING (SS-233)** **June 1, 1944 – 8th war patrol** **Lost with All Hands – 83 Souls**
 - **USS R-12 (SS-89)** **June 12, 1943 – practice torpedo approach near Key West FL**
Lost with 42 Souls – 21 Survivors
 - **USS GOLET (SS-361)** **June 14, 1944 – 2nd war patrol** **Lost with All Hands – 82 Souls**
 - **USS BONEFISH (SS-223)** **June 18, 1945 – 8th war patrol** **Lost with All Hands – 85 Souls**
 - **USS S-27 (SS-132)** **June 19, 1942 – grounded off Amchitka Island Alaska**
No Loss of Life
 - **USS O-9 (SS-70)** **June 20, 1941 – foundered off Isle of Shoals NH**
Lost with All Hands – 33 Souls
 - **USS RUNNER (SS-275)** **June 30, 1943 – 3rd war patrol** **Lost with All Hands – 78 Souls**
 - **Seven Boats and 403 Men Lost**

Chief Quartermaster, Submarines
Alan William Dempster, US Navy Retired
Departed on Eternal Patrol 23 May 2025

- The Creed of USSVI was read by Base Commander Dave Harvey.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- There were no new guests/prospective members this evening.

Old Business:

- **Treasurer Oath of Office – Chaplain Nick Nichols**
 - Chaplain Nick Nichols performed the official swearing-in of Ricky Collins as Base Treasurer.

New Business:

- **Navy Birthday Ball – Johnny Brown**
 - Johnny advised the members that NNPTC will be organizing the Golf Tournament fund raiser for the Navy Ball. Johnny said that we had previously sponsored the Breakfast Bar at \$500.
 - [Secretary's Note: From the July, 2023 Base Meeting Minutes – the Base approved withdrawal of \$750 from the Investment Fund for the sponsorship of the Golf Tournament fund raiser.]
 - If Charleston Base wants to sponsor this year, the cost will be \$1,000. Ken Hutchison made the motion to sponsor the Breakfast Bar with Ray Sparks seconding. Treasurer Ricky Collins advised the group that we do not have sufficient funds in the checking account to cover the \$1,000 expenditure. Ken Hutchison stated that we need to support NNPTC and this event.
 - Ray Sparks presented a motion, with Robert Sollo seconding, that we withdraw the \$1,000 from the Investment Fund. No discussion. Motion was overwhelmingly approved to transfer the funds except for two hands as NAY. With the original motion about whether or not to sponsor the Navy Ball Golf Tournament still open, the vote was taken and approved without objection.

- **USSVI National Convention – Dave Harvey**

- We have been asked if Charleston Base would like to place an ad in American Submariner for the upcoming National Convention for a cost of \$175 for a half page ad. Nick Nichols made the motion with Glenn Little seconding. During discussion, there were questions from the room about what the ad looked like and the bank balance, otherwise there were no questions. Motion passed.

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the May Base Meeting were emailed to all Base members. The Minutes have been published on the Base Website for download. The Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- With Ricky on travel, the Treasurer's Report for May was same as published in April. Updates to the May report are:
 - We made \$1,600 in the Investment Fund.
 - Deposits were made from money received last week at the BOD Meeting.
 - The correct amount of the current balance of the General Fund – including reserved, designated funds (Scholarship, CWM, License Plates, etc.) is \$10,061. The report was approved as updated. The updates will be fully reflected in the June Treasurer's report.

Chaplain – Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
 - 82 years ago today, June 12, 1943, **USS R-12 (SS-89)** was lost with the loss of 42 men near Key West, FL during a practice torpedo approach. The cause was probably due to flooding through a torpedo tube. The CO and 2 other men on the bridge survived, as did 18 crew members on liberty at the time of the accident.

There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

All of the shipmates on this binnacle list would really appreciate a phone call or even a card from their shipmates in the base. Contact information can be found on the Sailing List.

- **Marty Sessler's** memorial service was held on 22 May with 40 base members & family attending the service. Marty's family was very appreciative of us being there. She has sent a note that reads:
"Thanks" to all of the SubVets and especially those who came to Marty's services. I got so many compliments on you, the SubVets, their "uniforms" and their professionalism. One man (and ex-Marine told me it was the most beautiful, well conducted and inspiring religious/military funeral he'd ever attended. And I owe the military part to you and Marty's other friends."
- **Al Dempster's** memorial service will be at Stuhr's Northwoods Chapel Greenridge Rd. on 14 June @ 11am. Pastor Sam Knight will conduct the service. We've had services with him before. FRA will conduct Two Bell and SUBVETS will conduct Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling. I have these participants: Dave Harvey present certificate; Greg Landry present shadow box; Bill Freligh will present the HC coin; Glenn Little will toll the bell.
- **Budda Nelms** was taken to the hospital with a serious case of the flu. He was there from Sunday 7 June until Tuesday 10 June. He is home taking his meds and doing much better.
- **Pete Garrison** sent an email saying he had not made meetings for awhile due to his lung issues. In 2021 he had pneumonia and covid causing lung scarring and reducing efficient to 50%. He's now on supplemental O2 and the amount he needs to be safe increased to double previously needed. His portable O2 machine runs at full capacity which reduces battery life but he now has three batteries so hopes to get to our meetings again.
- **Ron Snyder** was in the hospital after having a heart attack on May 22. He got home on May 27, is doing PT and getting stronger each day. Looking forward to getting back to going to the meetings. Thanks for all the prayers.
- **Rick Carlson** was sent by his eye doctor to MUSC and diagnosed with a main blood vessel rupture behind his left eye causing him to have double vision. A procedure was done to stop the bleeding but he is not driving or doing much of anything.

- **Kit Sparger** is at home and according to her son, Rick Jr., she is doing OK. Continuing to do treatments and so far, looks positive.
- **John Lookabill** will not require surgery for the pulled ligament.
- **James Graham Sr.** is at home recovering from the hospital stay with cellulitis in his knee starting from a bug bite infection.
- **Don Meadows** is confined to his bed much of the time. Even though he can't attend the meetings he does watch them on YouTube. His seizures are getting worse and more frequent.
- **Ken Curtis** is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week. He is in good spirits and welcomes phone calls and visitors. Please keep Ken and Barbara both in your prayers.
- **Al Stoll** is in Room 3 at the skilled Nursing section at the villages at Summerville rehab center at the end of West 9th North Street. He has a very hard time hearing so phone calls are not easy for him. If visiting before or after lunch is best time.
- **Marvin Miller** is at White Oak Manor. 9285 Medical Plaza Dr. Room 117. He is answering his cell 843.873.0564. This is behind Trident.
- **Bill & Becky Roberts** are living in the Villages, him in Cottage 606 with Becky in the Greenhouse Memory Care Unit. His mailing address is: William Roberts, 201 W. 9th North Street, Unit 99, Summerville SC 29483-6715.
- **Connie Dempster** is in The Bridge of Charleston Assisted Living. Mailing address is: Connie Dempster – Room 222, 2590 Elms Plantation Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29406. Apartment phone – (843) 793-1187.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols:

- It is election time for our ESR District 2 Commander for the 2025-27 Term of Office. The current ESD2 is Wayne Phillips and is running unopposed. Next week an email will be sent to all base members with both Word and PDF ballots and instructions. Please take time to vote...it is important to show that the 3rd largest base in USSVI cares about electing our leaders.
- American Legion Post 166, Goose Creek, will be conducting a Flag Disposal ceremony on Saturday, June 14th, at the Post commencing at 1700. They have asked that our Shipmates bring their unserviceable flag to be properly disposed and participate. TV Channel 4 will be televising portions of this ceremony with various organizations participating.
- Boat reunion info for those being held in Charleston will be placed on the home page of the base website when received. Send the info to webmaster@ussvicb.org
- Please report any change in your personal info to either Larry, Nick or the COB so the necessary changes can be made to national and local database.
- "Shift Colors" has been discontinued. The new eMagazine is **Sailor for Life**, It will be delivered to you via email if you have a DFAS email address. Also, you can find the first two issues of this magazine on our base website on the Documents webpage.

National Convention – Nick Nichols:

- A total of 17 from Charleston and 1 guest from another base are planning to attend the National Convention Aug 31 – Sep 6 in Orlando FL.
 - Ken & Barbara Brennerman
 - Bill & Mary Freligh
 - Dave & Dee Dee Harvey
 - Tom & Lisa Holcombe
 - Richard Jordan & Austin Jordan [Hampton Rds Base]
 - Nick & Linda Nichols
 - Art & JonAnne Sattler
 - Ed Stank & Carolyn Berry
 - Steve Woodside & Peg O'Donnell

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- Lou reported that the video from the Lost Boats ceremony at CWM was posted online today.
- A recent video required a lot of editing – "Thank you Ed." [dripping sarcasm]

Membership – Larry Knutson

- Nothing to Report
- Nick Nichols provided Base Standings [those with more than 200 members]: Charleston is #3 in USSVI membership. [AM = Associate Member]
 - Groton 1106 w/61 AM - 2) Hampton Roads 285 w/11 AM – 3) Charleston 248 w/12 AM - 4) Bremerton 243 w/12 AM – 5) Requin 206 w/20 AM

Scholarship – Tom Lawson III

- We have a balance in the Scholarship fund of just over \$6,500 at this time.
- We had no Scholarship applications this year. The balance will be carried forward to next year.
- Tom has Base Challenge Coins available.

Fleet Reserve Association – Ken Hutchison

- Ken Hutchison has been relieved as President of the FRA. During the last six years, three Charleston Base members, Nate Nathan, Harry Nettles and Ken have held the office, but the new FRA President is a Marine.
- Ken wants to make sure that we get Al Dempster sent off on Eternal Patrol properly.
- The FRA will hold an Indoor Picnic on July 4.

Election Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- Ken Hutchison has been the Charleston Base Election coordinator for ten years and is requesting a relief of duty. If someone wants to take on this task, please advise Dave.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The River Dogs game is tomorrow, 13 June. It is too late to purchase tickets.
- The FRA has invited Charleston Base SubVets to join them for a picnic at Marrington Plantation. Tickets will be \$5. Let Johnny know if you are coming and how many you are bringing.

NNPTC Liaison – Anthony Mazza

- Not present

Comptroller – Rick Wise

- Nothing to report

Nuclear Power School Awards – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Newsletter – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Little David – Phil Nunnally

- Not present

Float Coordinator – Dave Harvey

- We have received two new THRESHER signs for the float.
- The float will be transported to Manitowoc, WI for the parade there.

Ambassador USSVCF/PAO– Bob MacPherson

- Not present

Kaps 4 Kids – Art Sattler

- Nothing reported

Submarine License Plates – Ed Stank

- On the tables are a proposed design for the plate. It has also been sent to the DMV for review.
- Currently, the effort is \$332 short of the required \$6,800 to submit the application. Ed stated that this is not a problem, since he could pay this himself if necessary.
- Ed stated that when a plate is purchased, the cost will be paid back to Charleston Base but it may take ten years to get reimbursed.
- Members of USSVI will be automatically qualified to receive the plate, but it will be available to any submarine qualified individual. The plate will ONLY be available to submarine qualified personnel. A member of Charleston Base (currently Ed Stank) will be the gate keeper for all DMV submarine license plate applications.
- The license plate will not be available with handicap markings. If someone needs the handicap marker, then the placard to hang from the mirror is an option.

Cold War Memorial – Rusty Pickett

- There is an effort for restoration of the Cold War Memorial. Rusty Pickett clarified that the CWM is a dedicated SC State memorial, so that if anyone hears of efforts by Patriot's Point to move the CWM, simply disregard what you hear. There is, however, a lot of cosmetic work that must be done at the CWM – especially on the sail.
- Rusty Pickett informed the group that a Lafayette bench will be installed at the CWM soon. There will also be a Nathan Hale bench to follow shortly after. Rusty nixed any word to the contrary about being able to install memorial benches at the CWM.

Special Events – Tom Holcombe

- Freedom Fest will be held on June 27 at Locklear Park starting at 6PM. The float will not be there this year, since it is being packed for transport to Wisconsin for the parade in Manitowoc.
- Tom will soon be assembling a watch bill for the Coastal Carolina Fair.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody has received five more 250/125 Challenge Coins.
- Woody has one more 60 Year USSVI patch kit.
- Woody has a bunch of stars from retired flags. These are available at no cost.
- The Embroidery Shop has been sold to another nearby business.
- Woody will not be at the July Base Meeting.
- We will have a guest speaker at the July Base Meeting. Tom Holcombe will be the POC for him.

COB – Greg Landry

- Freedom Fest will begin at 6PM with fireworks about 9PM.
- The July 4 FRA Indoor Picnic will begin about 1130.
- Will Rogers SSBN-659 Reunion will be held in October and is requesting support from Charleston Base with a memorial service at Patriot's Point.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Not present

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- Not present

Base Commander – DAVE HARVEY

- Dave thanked the Base members for support and patience during his first meeting as BC.
- The National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL on August 31 – September 6.
- There was discussion of how membership/dues are paid by members of more than one base.
- Dave mentioned an email that he received requesting donations to Groton Base which has more than 1100 members on the roster.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Open for chow at 5PM on Wednesdays.

Drawings & Auctions

- FRA Drawing – Pete Garrison
- Depth Charge Drawing – Dennis Lanier

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Nick Nichols led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Dave Harvey announced adjournment of the meeting with a sound of three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1959.